



The Cup CHRONICLES

The Official Newsletter of Mapúa MCM Cup Season 7
Volume No. 1, Issue No. 1

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STAGE-SET SHOWDOWN

Season 7's 48-hour interschool face-off unveils student talent, innovation

● by Arwen Ventilacion

Before the first cheer and the first note, anticipation filled the air as students from across the region prepared to showcase creativity, skill, and teamwork in a high-stakes interschool competition.

The event took place at Abreeza Mall on March 9–10, 2026, bringing together schools from across Davao City and nearby provinces for a two-day display of performances, projects, and challenges designed to test talent and collaboration.

Months of rehearsals, coordination, and planning came together on stage, with organizers and volunteers meticulously ensuring smooth transitions between acts and technical setups.

This year's theme, "Shaping the Next Gen Earth," challenged participants to present solutions for environmental, social, and technological issues, encouraging performances and projects that combined creativity, collaboration, and sustainable thinking.

Weeks before the main showcase, the pre-events took place, including Craft 1.4.6, CodeClash, and the Innovation Pitch, which helped students refine ideas, strengthen teamwork, and test problem-solving skills ahead of the main showcase.

On the first day, audiences were treated to cheer dance, singing duets, film spoofs, and a battle of the bands, with each

team delivering energy, originality, and polished execution that drew enthusiastic reactions from the crowd.

The second day featured jazz chant, street dance, and cosplay competitions, where students demonstrated high-energy performances, intricate choreography, and dynamic stage presence.

Assumption College's INDAK SILAKBO impressed with a commanding street dance routine, while Tagum City National High School showcased a polished jazz chant performance. Cosplay entrants also captivated audiences with detailed costumes and theatrical flair.

With multiple schools displaying standout performances across competitions, the Mapúa MCM Cup Season 7 continues to provide a platform for students to push their creative boundaries and shine on stage.

Photo by Kauman Productions



ONE MAPUA. Performances, ceremonies, and student showcases highlight the opening of Mapúa MCM Cup Season 7, officially launching the two-day interschool competition at Abreeza Mall.

BEHIND THE SCENES. Event preparation co-chair Louisa Ulo oversees first-day operations for Mapúa MCM Cup Season 7 at Abreeza Mall, ensuring smooth coordination between organizers, volunteers, and participants.



'Stressful and hectic preparation' — event co-chair bares, lauds committees' help

● by Arwen Ventilacion

Putting together Mapúa MCM Cup Season 7 meant navigating challenges long before the first performance took the stage, none more pressing than a sudden rescheduling that gave organizers only two weeks to regroup.

Event preparation co-chair Louisa Ulo described the process as 'stressful and hectic,' weekly meetings were derailed by the October earthquake, forcing organizers to scramble.

Coordinating with competing schools proved difficult as some

had to redo registrations, while others backed out due to scheduling conflicts, resulting in fewer participants.

'It was quite difficult to coordinate since we suddenly had to move it to a later date,' Ulo shared.

Despite challenges, committee heads and volunteers pushed through with support from Admissions, IFO, and other school departments.

Ulo credited their teamwork for ensuring the event ran smoothly, giving students a platform to showcase their skills.

PRE-EVENTS

CHAMPIONS

▶ **DAVAO DEL SUR SCHOOL OF FISHERIES**
Impromptu Speech Festival

▶ **PHILIPPINE ACADEMY OF SAKYA DAVAO INC.**
Smart Talker

▶ **PHILIPPINE ACADEMY OF SAKYA DAVAO INC.**
Interviewer

▶ **TAGUM CITY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**
Craft 1.4.6

▶ **PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL DAVAO CITY CAMPUS**
Innovation Pitch

▶ **PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL DAVAO CITY CAMPUS**
Code Clash

Harmony in the spotlight: F. Bangoy NHS duet claims vocal crown

• by Arwen Ventilacion

The first note hung in the air, delicate but certain. Then another joined it, weaving together until two voices became one sound that held the entire venue in silence.

Mary Joice Geyrozaga and Shanelle Heart Mariveles of Francisco Bangoy National High School stood center stage, delivering their rendition of Whitney Houston and Mariah Carey's 'When You Believe.' The song, an anthem about hope amid struggle, carried a weight they knew all too well.

When results were announced, the duo emerged champion in the singing duets category of Mapúa MCM Cup Season 7. They bested two other pairs: Jella Mich Manzano and Princess Lugod of Daniel R. Aguinaldo National High School, and Marc Usher G. Beltran with Adriana Grace L. Calibod of Tagum City National High School.

Their path

to gold was disrupted when the October earthquake pushed back the competition, compressing rehearsal time. Yet they pushed through, because they believed.

Applause filled Abreeza Mall as winners were announced. Spectators praised the champions' blending. 'Sila na gyud,' one whispered. Nearby, another nodded: 'Nindot kaayo ilang harmony.'

The song asks if there's room for hope when all seems lost. On Monday, their answer rang clear.

TWO AS ONE. F. Bangoy NHS's winning duet performers shine on day one of Mapúa MCM Cup Season 7 at Abreeza Mall, their chemistry on full display despite only two weeks of final preparations.



BCT Pep Squad reigns supreme; La Filipina plots 'revenge'

• by Janelle Athena Adlawan

T

he atrium erupted in applause as the final routine of Brokenshire College of Toril (BCT) faded. Thirty dancers held their ending pose: tired eyes but radiant smiles, chests heaving, while the judges' pens scratched across their scoresheets. Awaiting was La Filipina National High School (LFNHS) who went on a neck and neck performance against BCT Pep Squad. But only one could acclaim glory. Brokenshire's Pep Squad feats the champion at the Cheeroff: Cheerdance Competition in MCM Cup 2026.

The BCT Pep Squad arrives as emerging champions, having secured first runner up in the last year's MCM Cup before claiming the crown, while the DANZA enters as the challenger, hungry to make their first mark.

LA FILIPINA'S QUEST FOR BREAKTHROUGH

After their standing, DANZA was not defeated in spirit. It was rather a path for transition. What began as a chance for exposure became something more, igniting a competitive fire within them.

But the taste of the competition has left them wanting more, with a clear and burning ambition to nab the title from the champions.

After watching Brokenshire's victory, Aliyah Batler of La Filipina DANZA is filled with determination. "Mubawi jud mi. Next year kuhaan na jud namo ang crown."

BROKENSHIRE'S HARBINGER: WHAT'S AT STAKE?

For Brokenshire, one thing is clear next season: to go home undefeated once more.

But LFNHS's anticipation for transition, puts the title holders at stake.

"Confident lang din ako [in the student's performance]. I know na ang mga bata ng Brokenshire is very competitive. Unta lang gyud ma defend [next MCM Cup season]" Pep Squad coach, Krystal Bolasio said.

LEGACY VS BREAKTHROUGH

The event ended, but one thing remains. Two schools sought after chasing the sweet victory of yet another cheer dance competition. The story continues for the next MCM Cups to come, but we must never forget the start of this tale: the birth of a rivalry.

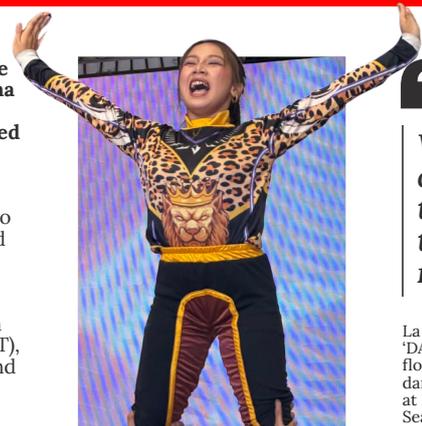
Despite a hard-fought performance at the Mapúa MCM Cup Season 7, La Filipina National High School fell short of the championship, but the defeat has only fueled their determination.

The Tagum-based squad 'DANZA' delivered a routine shaped by a month of interrupted preparations yet still managed to leave everything on the floor. While satisfied with their effort, they made one thing clear: they are far from done.

Beyond the Cup, the team has its sights set even higher, aiming to compete in next year's Division Festival of Talents (DFOT), a stage that could propel them to regional and national competitions. For La Filipina, this loss is not an ending. It is the beginning of something bigger.

La Filipina NHS vows to reclaim crown next year, sets sights on DFOT

• by Arwen Ventilacion



“
We will definitely try to win the crown next year.”

La Filipina NHS 'DANZA' takes the floor during the cheer dance competition at Mapúa MCM Cup Season 7.

IGNITED RIVALRY

EYES ON THE PRIZE. Brokenshire College of Toril Pep Squad and La Filipina NHS DANZA go head-to-head during the cheer dance competition at Mapúa MCM Cup Season 7.

TWO DAYS TO GLORY

RIVALS IN RHYTHM. Bands go head-to-head at Battle of the Bands during Mapúa MCM Cup Season 7, each hoping to leave their mark on the opening day.

ACD's Lunar Horizon on their Riff Rumble Win

● by Angela Feona Gasta

The stage pulsed as the voices of young performers thundered across the wide halls of Abreeza Ayala Mall Davao. Spotlights gleamed, music echoed, and dreams shone; a platform, Mapúa MCM Cup Season 7's Riff Rumble: Battle of the Bands, transformed into a battlefield of talent, stories, and passion.

Spearheaded by Mr. Jessie Benjs Monta and Ms. Abigail Balili from the High School Department, the event brought together eight public and private schools, each taking the stage with hopes in their pockets, air dense with anticipation, and flowing vigor. When the final notes faded, three schools emerged from the day's symphonies as the brightest tunes of the competition.

Stepping into the third podium spot was Tagum City Regional Academy for Senior High School (TCRASH), whose rendition of "Tatsulok" by Bamboo and "Upuan" by Gloc 9 carried power and energy. Following them was Syndicate, Tagum City National High School's (TCNHS) band, with a performance striking for its powerful vocal delivery and resounding high notes, torching the spark of their edgy storytelling.

Rising and soaring above them all was Lunar Horizon of Assumption College of Davao (ACD), crowned champion of the Riff Rumble. The

band blended expressive acting and audience engagement to unfold a compelling tale, painting music into provocative art that truly caught the audience's attention.

Amidst the highs, the bands carried pride that strived far from mere titles.

"My favorite part of it all was that we've built camaraderie when practicing," Syndicate guitarist, Ralph Sales, expressed, affirming triumph past the medals.

Likewise, Lunar Horizon bass guitarist, Princess Nishikawa, said, "The fact that we only practiced for two whole days was really memorable. I'm proud of what we've achieved."

As ACD, TCNHS, and TCRASH stand as the stars of the event, the stage gleams anew. This moment of teamwork and creativity reminds us that the music does not end with the trophies; it is a legacy—a powerful voice booming far beyond the spotlight.



LAUGHTER ON LOOP. DRANHS takes top honors in Reel Play: Film SpooF at Mapúa MCM Cup Season 7, their clever punchline about shifting beauty trends leaving the audience in stitches.

HILARITY REIGNS

DRANHS spoofs the event, claims the Reel Play crown

● by Alexie Medida

Laughter filled Ayala Malls Abreeza on March 9, 2026, as six schools competed in Reel Play: Film SpooF, a comedy parody contest that had the audience roaring.

The participating schools, Assumption College of Davao (ACD), Brokenshire College of Toril (BCT), Calinan National High School, Daniel R. Aguinaldo National High School (DRANHS), Tagum City National High School, and Tagum City Regional Academy for Senior High School, each delivered creative and hilarious takes on popular films.

But it was DRANHS that emerged victorious, thanks to their timely spoof about a young woman's obsession with "designer eyebags." The parody followed her desperate attempts to achieve the trend, staying up all night, drinking excessive coffee, and applying dark makeup, only to discover that the trend had shifted to well-rested, fresh skin.

The clever punchline and sharp comedic timing earned DRANHS the top spot, winning over both the judges and the audience.



BEHIND THE SCORES.

Cosplay judges deliberate during Metamorphosis at Mapúa MCM Cup Season 7, applying balance between accuracy and effort to ensure fair assessment among 15 participants.

Photo by
Kauman Productions



Judges stress accuracy and objectivity in MMCM cosplay evaluation

• by Angela Feona Gasta

Judges underscored fairness, preciseness, and character connection while evaluating contestants in the Metamorphosis: Cosplay competition of MMCM Cup Season 7. Composed of experienced individuals, the panel brought professional insight to ensure fair assessment among the 15 participants.

To remain unbiased, judges shared their evaluation techniques—staying true to the criteria, and discussed observations as a group while focusing on creativity, delivery, and performance.

Additionally, the judges highlighted the importance of accuracy in cosplay.

“In cosplaying, the essence is to copy, so it is important to stay accurate,” Pacalna said.

Judge Jewelyn Mansia added, “When you are accurate, it means you have put in effort.”

Meanwhile, Judge John Claude Bustamante views evaluation as a 60–40 balance between accuracy and effort, stressing that costumes and skits ultimately shape the overall performance.

SYNCHED RYTHMS

Tagum City NHS cops back-to-back chant crown; teamwork, fate fuels winning streak

• by Arwen Ventilacion

Securing the gold for a second year straight, Tagum City National High School continues to dominate the ChantNation: Jazz Chant Competition in this Mapúa MCM Cup season.

Competing against four other schools on the morning of March 10 at Abreeza Mall, the team stood out for its experience, rhythm, and confidence on stage despite the pressure of defending last year's championship.

Their synchronized vocals, coordinated choreography, and energetic delivery earned strong reactions from the crowd and ultimately secured the top spot once again.

“We felt the pressure since we already won last year,” their member, Nelyn, admitted before their performance.

She added that the team relied on the guidance of their coach, and began preparing early to strengthen team chemistry, through other events, supported by both their school and community.

After the results were announced, member Leona said the team felt relieved seeing their preparation paid off.

“The secret is hard work, communication, and God,” Leona said, adding that open communication among members helped maintain coordination during rehearsals, especially as the current

lineup mostly consists of new members after many of last year's performers graduated.

THE CHANTING FIELD

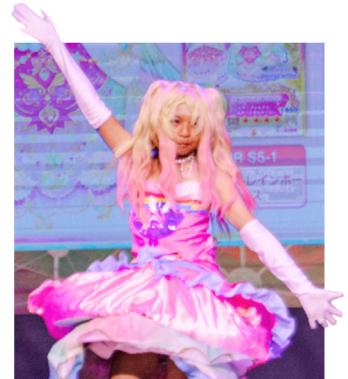
Brokenshire College Inc placed second after seven days of preparation despite scheduling conflicts, while Catalunan Pequeño NHS secured third following months of vocal training and weeks of choreography practice.

Other competitors included Philippine Academy of Sakya Incorporated, which persevered despite last-minute lineup changes, and Assumption College of Davao, a first-time participant that began voice practice in January before developing choreography for the event.

The Jazz Chant competition aims to develop students' pronunciation, rhythm, speaking confidence, and teamwork, with performances judged based on rhythm, pronunciation, coordination, and creativity, as Tagum City NHS now looks ahead to defending its title once more next year.

Photo by
Kauman Productions

STITCH BY STITCH. Miyuki Mariano, 19, brings Ichigo Hoshimiya from Aikatsu to life at Metamorphosis Cosplaying during Mapúa MCM Cup Season 7, wearing a costume she drafted and sewed herself.



Bridging Across the Needlepoint: Sewing a Path to the Cosplay Spotlight

• by Angela Feona Gasta

At first glance, cosplay may seem like a world of bright wigs, armor, and stage lights. But for 19-year-old Miyuki Mariano, the spark ignites long before she steps into the limelight—at the quiet rhythm of a sewing machine. Thus, she entered Mapúa MCM Cup Season 7's Metamorphosis: Cosplaying with a heart already full.

Fabric spreads across her table like an unfinished story waiting to be stitched into life. With careful hands and patient hours, she drafts, cuts, and sews her own costumes—transforming simple cloth into intricate mirrors of the characters she admires. For Miyuki, sewing is more than preparation; it is an avenue of expression and a space for craftsmanship.

Having been called a “weirdo” for most of her life, Miyuki found solace in cosplay's dazzling lights and in the quiet hum of her needles behind the curtains. When expectations of conformity weigh on her shoulders, the craft reminds her of her youthful freedom.

Each costume carries not just color and detail but also perseverance and grit. With every stitch, Miyuki hopes to leave her soul: be brave enough to try and pour your heart into your craft.

Photo by
Kauman Productions

PURE ENERGY. Tagum City NHS claims their second consecutive jazz chant championship at Abreeza Mall, delivering synchronized vocals and coordinated choreography that earned them the top spot.

Showstoppers: How season 7's street dance battle brought Abreeza to a standstill

• by Janelle Athena Adlawan and April Liz Vete

You did not even need to see the stage to know something massive was happening. You just had to listen.

Long before the first bass drop echoed through the venue, the atmosphere at the Mapúa MCM Cup Season 7 Street Dance Battle was already electric. But as the 14 competing crews from across the Davao Region took the floor, the energy shifted from a buzz to an absolute frenzy.

Divided by school colors and an endless supply of adrenaline, the core audience turned the barricades

into a roaring sea of support. Every synchronized pop, every gravity-defying flip, and every flawless transition was met with a deafening wall of sound.

"Maka kuha jud silag attention [the dancers]," Caelyn Fuentecilla said as Ilaolloo's staff couldn't help but leave their bustling stall behind to Sta. Ana National High School's entry.

As the beats echoed up the escalators, the casual mall crowd came to a grinding halt. Shoppers carrying bags paused mid-stride to crowd the railings on the second and third floors,

craning their necks for a glimpse of the action. What started as a school competition organically transformed into a multi-level arena.

For a few hours, the lines between rival schools, exhausted dancers, and random daily shoppers completely blurred. They were all just fans, united by 14 blazing performances that proved Davao's street dance scene is impossible to ignore. The Mapúa MCM Cup didn't just crown a champion; it stopped everyone in their tracks.



VOICES FROM THE CROWD. Spectators fill Abreeza Mall during Mapúa MCM Cup Season 7, their cheers and energy fueling performers across two days of competition.



DARING DEBUT. JMC's Christine stands confident after her team's street dance debut at Abreeza Mall.

'Rookie' teams thrill crowd on first-time street dance bid

• by Arwen Ventilacion

As the beat dropped and the crowd erupted in cheers, two groups of first-time dancers stepped onto the stage, nervous smiles quickly turning into confident moves as they matched every beat. Despite the pressure of their debut, Francisco Bangoy National High School and Jose Maria College Foundation Incorporated (JMCFI) delivered explosive performances that energized the audience at Abreeza Mall on March 10, competing against 12 other schools in this season's Streetdance Competition.

"Even if there were frustrations and challenges, we still pushed through because we wanted to compete here," shared Airaof F. Bangoy, recalling the pressure of performing against more experienced teams.

JMC's Christine echoed the sentiment, noting that their team's positive mindset helped them persevere through demanding rehearsals. She added that financial constraints were among the challenges they faced during preparation, although the school remained supportive of their participation in the event.

Both teams brought distinct themes that highlighted their creativity and preparation. Bangoy's routine took inspiration from social issues interpreted through powerful choreography, while JMC drew inspiration from Marvel's Scarlet Witch, blending theatrical elements with synchronized formations.

Looking ahead, Bangoy vowed to return stronger after their debut run. As for JMC, Christine left a confident message for future rivals: "Watch out for us next season."

CONQUERING THE BEAT

'A guaranteed win' — streetdance coach on team's redemption victory

• by Arwen Ventilacion

From the first drop of the beat, all eyes were on Assumption College of Davao's street dance team, 'INDAK SILAKBO,' as they stepped onto the stage, ready to reclaim the crown.

Competing against 13 other schools at Abreeza Mall on March 10, the team faced the pressure of last year's first runner-up finish, determined to prove their skill and stage presence.

For 15 senior high school students, months of preparation and practice culminated in a commanding performance that left the audience and judges impressed.

"I knew from the moment they executed their first move that the team already had the win," said Assumption coach Andrei Amper, calling the routine 'the best' he had seen.

He credited the team's success to talent, hard work, and audience appeal, adding, "this year, my focus was on winning the crowd, so long as we had the audience, that worked in our favor."

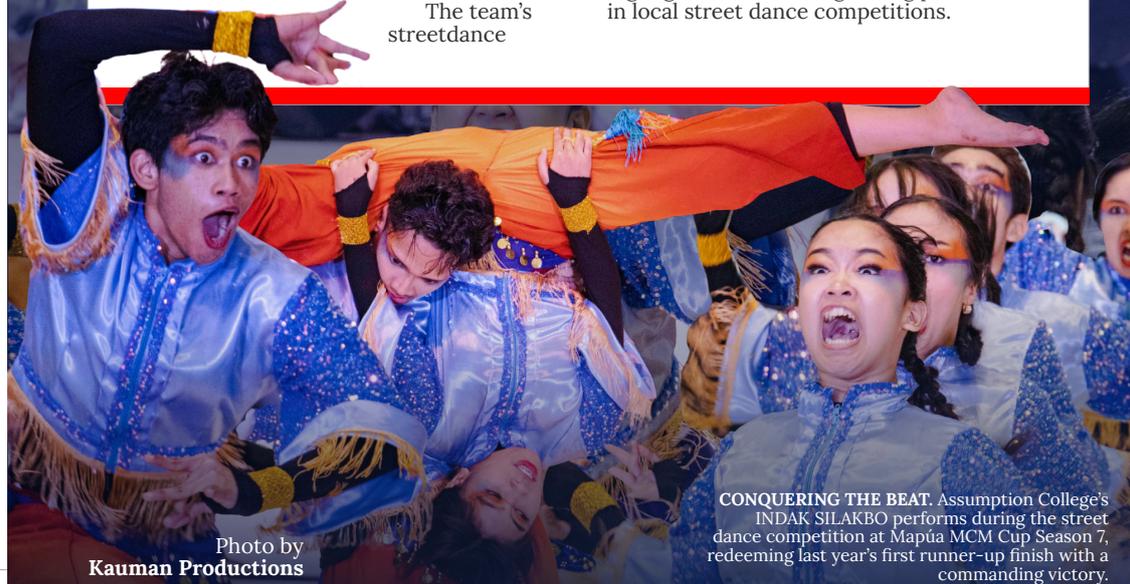
The team's streetdance

club president, Clarence Reyes, described the routine as iconic, noting that their Indian-inspired theme, synchronized choreography, and dazzling blue costumes made the performance stand out from the competition.

The team had recently also won a street dance competition at Lyceum University of the Philippines, showing that their preparation and momentum were paying off and giving them confidence heading into the Abreeza showdown.

Is this the start of a winning streak for Assumption? Amper said, "We will see," while Reyes expressed a confident 'yes.'

With precision, creativity, and stage presence, INDAK SILAKBO not only redeemed last year's near miss but also highlighted the team's growing prominence in local street dance competitions.



CONQUERING THE BEAT. Assumption College's INDAK SILAKBO performs during the street dance competition at Mapúa MCM Cup Season 7, redeeming last year's first runner-up finish with a commanding victory.

Photo by
Kauman Productions

DYNASTY. Tagum City NHS secures their fourth overall title since 2018 and third straight championship at Mapúa MCM Cup Season 7, proving their grip on the competition is firmer than ever.

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RELENTLESS EXCELLENCE

Tagum City NHS seals historic three-peat at Mapúa MCM Cup Season 7

by John Albert Nares



The air inside Ayala Malls Abreeza was thick with tension on March 10, 2026. As coaches and athletes held their breath, the expectant silence was suddenly shattered. With the official announcement of Tagum City National High School (TCNHS) as the Overall Champion of the Mapúa MCM Cup Season 7, the atrium erupted. TCNHS didn't just win; they cemented a legacy, securing their third consecutive title and proving their "City of Palms" dominance is firmer than ever.

THE ROAD TO 910 POINTS

The victory was decisive. TCNHS dominated the leaderboard with a staggering 910 points, outstripping runner-up Assumption College of Davao (755) and Daniel R. Aguinaldo National High School (630). For participants like graduating student Lordeine Alave, a first-time competitor in the Code Clash, the win was a perfect finale. Alave noted that seeing their collective hard work pay off in retaining the overall championship made the months of grueling preparation worth every effort.

PERSISTENCE AMIDST HURDLES

Behind the massive score gap was a period of intense endurance. The path to the podium was riddled with logistical and financial hurdles that required more than just talent to overcome.

"We come from public schools; we are not well-off," shared Leonard P. Dahunog, SHS Partnership Focal. "Sometimes, we take from our own pockets so that students won't go hungry during practice."

Resilience was further tested by frequent class suspensions and sudden venue changes. Florian Vincent M. Benasa, Student Activity Coordinator, noted that these external factors

forced constant schedule reinventions. Additionally, graduating chanter Ram Mandawe highlighted the heavy financial demands for costumes, materials, and choreography fees.

Bridging these gaps was a collective effort. The team relied heavily on the school community, receiving fuel assistance from the SPTA and transportation support from Mayor Rey T. Uy and the Local Government of Tagum.

MORE THAN GOLD

These struggles were a reality acknowledged by the organizers. The High School Principal and Overall Chair, Cesar Glenn Josio, admitted that while the Cup was far from perfect, the committee refused to give up. "We know you poured your hearts into preparing for this event," Josio remarked. "And we knew that canceling it would break your hearts, so we pushed."

Ultimately, TCNHS leadership emphasized that their fourth overall title since 2018 is about more than just hardware. As Benasa put it, "Winning for us is not all about the trophies. It's about sharing talents and building camaraderie." And as the trophy returns to Tagum, the message is clear: they have found the formula for excellence by blending elite skill with a relentless spirit.



We come from public schools; we are not well-off"

- Leonard P. Dahunog, SHS Partnership Focal.

Photo by Kauman Productions

Mapúa MCM Cup Hall of Fame

Overall Champions through the years

Layout Artist Lizandro Ragual

2018 I'M IN THE NOW

2020 OUTCOMES BEYOND EXPECTATIONS

2022 BREAKING BOUNDARIES

2024 OBE: ONE IN BUILDING EXCELLENCE

2026 SHAPING THE NEW GEN EARTH

2018 OUTCOMES BEYOND EXPECTATIONS

2021 DIGITAL REVOLUTION

2023 INNOVATION AND BEYOND

2025 BRIDGING AI-DRIVEN WORLD THRU EXCELLENCE

Illustrated by Janelle Athena Adlawan

WHO WILL BE NEXT?